
SENATE BILL 6092

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senators Hatfield, Swecker, Haugen, and Holmquist

Read first time 02/24/09. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Rural Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to milk pricing; and creating a new section.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) A task force on milk pricing mechanisms
4 is established.

5 (2) The task force shall be jointly appointed by the speaker of the
6 house of representatives and the president of the senate and shall be
7 composed of the following members:

8 (a) Four persons representing dairy farmers;

9 (b) Two persons representing dairy processors;

10 (c) Up to five representatives of various distributors,
11 wholesalers, and retailers who sell milk or milk products in the state;
12 and

13 (d) The director of the department of agriculture or the director's
14 designee.

15 (3) The purpose of the task force is to consider the long-term
16 economic stability of the dairy industry in Washington state over
17 recent decades with special attention to the current depression in
18 prices impacting the industry in February 2009. The task force shall
19 examine:

- 1 (a) The current federal order pricing system and its limited
2 ability to prevent extreme volatility in prices;
- 3 (b) How other states have supplemented federal milk pricing
4 regulation with additional state regulations;
- 5 (c) Washington state current state milk pricing statutes and
6 whether the law needs to be updated;
- 7 (d) The possible use of requesting congressional compact authority
8 between states for the purpose of jointly regulating milk prices
9 between states; and
- 10 (e) Developing a recommendation as to whether Washington state
11 should request a similar congressional compact authority for working
12 with neighboring states.
- 13 (4) The task force shall elect its own chairperson.
- 14 (5) The department of agriculture shall provide staff for the task
15 force.
- 16 (6) The task force shall submit a report of its findings and
17 recommendations by December 15, 2010, to the appropriate committees of
18 the legislature.

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